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DK-99-25

From: John Geis <j_geis@hotmail.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 1999 6:59 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by John Geis (j_geis@hotmail.com)
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 17:59:54

comments: I support the LPFM radio licenses.
The airwaves are up to the public to regulate, not corporations.

address: 336 Los Coches St.

city: Milpitas

state: CA

zip: 95035

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not

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Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio

in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
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6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
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8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.
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10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.

11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.

12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

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Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:
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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press

Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

From: J. Matthew Ryan <gydelines@aol.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 1999 7:44 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by J. Matthew Ryan (gydelines@aol.com)
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 18:44:52

comments: Hello!

I'm Matt Ryan from Buffalo. I really enjoy public radio, but it's only out of colleges around here. Microradio is a fantastic idea. I think it is a smart thing to do stepping into the millenium. I am interested in becomming a dj, and getting the right music out to the listeners. Radio around Buffalo isn't exciting. Our alternative station... 103.3 the Edge still plays pearl jam songs from like 5 years ago!!!

I also play in an original local band called Bentham. Microradio sounds like a great way to get great unheard of local and national original music out to a wider variety of listeners. It's also good promotion to the bands, and the independant record labels that they are on.

I feel it can bring communities together!!!

I really hope something like this works out across the nation, and possibly the rest of the world.

Don't give up!!!!

Sincerely,
Matt

address: 176 Bentham East

city: Snyder

state: NY

zip: 14226

Submit: Send to FCC

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

From: Cathy Pierce <mobypierce@prodigy.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 1999 7:44 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Cathy Pierce (mobypierce@prodigy.net)
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 18:44:41

comments: I fully support LPFM. Corporations should not be allowed to control something that belongs to the public.

address: 3518 Morgan Ave N

city: Minneapolis

state: MN

zip: 55412

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

07/25/99

From: Phillip Morrow <pmr1@idt.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sun, Jul 25, 1999 12:27 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

DK-25-99

This email was submitted by Phillip Morrow (pmr1@idt.net)
on Sunday, July 25, 1999 at 11:27:10

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comments: Please lift the regulations on micro-power stations. I believe every
U.S. Citizen should have the right to the air-waves.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: 955 New Market Street

city: Philadelphia

state: PA

zip: 19123

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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

From: Matthew Shultz <mcshultz@umich.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 1999 3:23 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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AUG 02 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This email was submitted by Matthew Shultz (mcshultz@umich.edu)
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 14:23:22

comments: Low power radio will be a wonderful thing. Communities can listen to
what they want, not the mass produced, mass intake oriented, low rate
radio that pervades our airwaves.

address: 1015 Packard Road

address2: Apt. 2

city: Ann Arbor

state: MI

zip: 48104

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications
Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to
us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves.
We have become increasingly concerned about the growing
concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that
the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase
opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

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One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their

communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

From: Blake William Thompson <psychalgia@rocketmail.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 23, 1999 9:24 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

AUG 02 1999

This email was submitted by Blake William Thompson (psychalgia@rocketmail.com) on Friday, July 23, 1999 at 20:24:27

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I fully support this movement, and wish to give it back through this electronic mailing.

address: 4921 regal ct

city: racine

state: wi

zip: 53406

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DK-9925

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani
 Commissioner Michael Powell
 Commissioner Susan Ness
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
 The Portals
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